

CORRESPONDENCE.

[Correspondents are requested to write briefly and to the point. No attention will be paid to anonymous communications.]

Frank Bolles.

TO THE EDITORS OF 'THE AUK':—

Dear Sirs:—At a regular meeting of the Nuttall Ornithological Club held February 19, 1894, the following Memorial of Mr. Frank Bolles, an Associate Member of the A. O. U., who died January 10, 1894, was adopted by the Club for entrance in the Records and the secretary was instructed to communicate it to 'The Auk' for publication.

This Memorial was written by Mr. Hoffmann for the special committee appointed to prepare it, consisting of Messrs. Brewster, Batchelder, Carruth and Hoffman.

Yours very truly,

FRANCIS BEACH WHITE,

Secretary.

Nuttall Ornithological Club, Cambridge, Mass., Feb. 21, 1894.

Mr. Bolles's connection with the Nuttall Club, which has been so sadly and unexpectedly severed, dated from December, 1887, when he was elected to membership. Throughout the next six years his interest in the success of the Club was keen, and his attendance, when the nature of his work is considered, extremely constant. He used the opportunity which his connection with Harvard University afforded him to add to the membership of the Club, and his contributions in the shape of papers were of unfailing interest.

Through the spring of 1892 he served the Club faithfully in the capacity of secretary. His presence at any meeting was a stimulus to both readers and listeners and a guarantee of fruitful discussion of the questions in hand.

Of the papers which Mr. Bolles has read at various meetings of the Club, some have found their way into his books, while others have appeared in various periodicals. His published works include beside his two books—'The Land of the Lingering Snow' and 'At the North of Bearcamp Water'—and some scattered notes, an article in the 'New England Magazine' (Vol. VII, p. 93) called 'Bird Traits'; one in the 'Popular Science Monthly' (Vol. XLI, p. 313) called 'Ways of the Owl'; and three in 'The Auk,' entitled 'Barred Owls in Captivity' (Vol. VII, p. 101), 'Yellow-bellied Woodpeckers and their Uninvited Guests' (Vol. VIII, p. 256) and 'Young Sapsuckers in Captivity' (Vol. IX, p. 109).

His services to Ornithology were of two distinct kinds; several of his articles dealing with special subjects, took rank as soon as they appeared, as contributions of permanent scientific value. This is especially true of his well-known study of the Sapsuckers, an examination of which will reveal the secret of much of his success in field-work. It gives abundant evidence of the most patient and intelligent observation. When Mr. Bolles undertook the study of any particular problem, he concentrated his attention upon the subject with a remarkable conscientiousness and closeness. Nothing was allowed to distract him from the work in hand; nothing escaped him which might throw light on it. He displayed, moreover, a fertility and an ingenuity in experiment which enabled him to test in a remarkable way the accuracy of his conclusions.

Besides these special contributions to scientific knowledge, Mr. Bolles in his popular writings presented the subject of Ornithology in so attractive a light, and to so large an audience, that it is doubtful if any other recent writer has awakened a more widespread interest in the subject.

The story of his entrance into the field of literature is an interesting one. In the winter of 1889, before the 'Boston Post' had ceased to represent the best traditions of Boston journalism, its readers were attracted by a series of weekly letters, signed O. W. L., which described, in a vivid and attractive fashion, the changes of a New England season from mid-winter to early spring. The letters showed the fields and hills of the vicinity in an aspect totally unfamiliar to many and lent to the seemingly barren wastes of snow, the animation of natural life, and the warmth and beauty of sunset and storm. They were often written at the close of a long outing, rapidly and accurately setting forth in the incisive language which Mr. Bolles always employed, the incidents of the day. At the fortunate suggestion of Mr. Lowell the letters were put into a permanent form and will serve to perpetuate to an ever-increasing number of readers the memory of their author.

It will be evident to the hastiest reader of Mr. Bolles's books, as it was to those who knew him, that he loved the outdoor world with the intensity and entire sincerity of his whole nature. Especially the wilder aspects of Nature appealed to him. Winter, the sea, the mountains, attracted him, and found in him a sympathetic interpreter. In his unaffected delight in being out of doors, and in his enthusiasm in recording the simplest facts that came within his observation lie much of the charm of his work. There is, besides, the virility and freshness of his style, and his splendid power of description.

Of Mr. Bolles as a man and as a friend this is not the place to speak at length. To those who knew him, his presence is still so vivid, and the feeling of his loss so keen, that a mere word will serve to recall him. His whole-heartedness characterized his relations with his fellows, as it entered into everything he undertook. All who knew him feel a sense of his loss which reveals to them how large a part he filled in their lives.